

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A sealed package of pourable food product comprising: a plurality of walls; a through hole passing through one of the walls; a removable portion fixed directly to the one wall and completely covering the through hole; an upstanding frame fixed to the package at a position surrounding the removable portion, the upstanding frame defining a pour opening through which the pourable food product can flow when a part of the removable portion covering the through hole is removed; a cap fitted to the frame and closing the pour opening, the cap being removable from the frame; a rigid plate positioned in the upstanding frame and extractable from the frame by pulling action; a pull-tab of sheet material having a sealed end at an edge of the through hole, and a free, unsealed end at an opposite end of the pull-tab and at an initial position, the pull-tab of sheet material being attached to the removable portion and the free, unsealed end being attached to the rigid plate, and the pull-tab of sheet material connecting the rigid plate to the removable portion so that pulling action applied to the rigid plate after removing the cap is first applied to the free, unsealed end of the pull-tab of sheet material to remove the free, unsealed end from the initial position, and is subsequently applied to the removable portion attached to the pull-tab of sheet material to cause removal of the part of the removable portion after the free, unsealed end is removed.

19. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the pull-tab comprises a main portion and an end portion folded back onto the main portion so that the end portion overlies the main portion, the main portion being attached to the removable portion and the end portion being the free, unsealed end attached to the rigid plate.

20. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said plate is connected integrally to the frame by breakable strips of connecting material, the breakable strips being parallel to each other.

21. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the one wall includes an exterior surface and an interior surface, the frame being tubular and possessing an outer surface facing an inner surface of the cap, the tubular frame being fixed to the exterior surface of the one wall.

22 (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the tubular frame does not pass through the through hole in the one wall.

23. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the removable portion is fixed to the inner surface of the one wall.

24. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the one wall includes an exterior surface and an interior surface, and the removable portion is fixed to the inner surface of the one wall.

25. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the removable portion is sealed to an edge of the through hole.

26. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the removable portion is sealed to an edge of the through hole.

27. (Previously Presented) A sealed package of pourable food product comprising: a plurality of walls; a through hole passing through one of the walls; a removable portion fixed to the one wall and completely covering the through hole; an upstanding frame fixed to the package at a position surrounding the removable portion, the upstanding frame defining a pour opening through which the pourable food product can flow when a part of the removable portion covering the through hole is removed; a cap fitted to the frame and closing the pour opening, the cap being removable from the frame; a rigid plate positioned in the upstanding frame and extractable from the frame by pulling action; a pull-tab of sheet material having a sealed end at an edge of the through hole, and a free, unsealed end at an opposite end of the pull-tab and at an initial position, the pull-tab of sheet material being attached to the removable portion and the free, unsealed end being attached to the rigid plate; the pull-tab of sheet material not being a part of the rigid plate and not being a part of the removable portion; and the pull-tab of sheet material connecting the rigid plate to the removable portion so that pulling action applied to the rigid plate after removing the cap is first applied to the free, unsealed end of the pull-tab of sheet material to remove the free, unsealed end from the initial position, and is subsequently applied to the removable portion attached to the pull-tab of sheet

material to cause removal of the part of the removable portion after the free, unsealed end is removed.

28. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the pull-tab comprises a main portion and an end portion folded back onto the main portion so that the end portion overlies the main portion, the main portion being attached to the removable portion and the end portion being the free, unsealed end attached to the rigid plate.

29. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said plate is connected integrally to the frame by breakable strips of connecting material, the breakable strips being parallel to each other.

30. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the one wall includes an exterior surface and an interior surface, the frame being tubular and possessing an outer surface facing an inner surface of the cap, the tubular frame being fixed to the exterior surface of the one wall.

31 (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the tubular frame does not pass through the through hole in the one wall.

32. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the removable portion is fixed to the inner surface of the one wall.

33. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the one wall includes an exterior surface and an interior surface, and the removable portion is fixed to the inner surface of the one wall.

34. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the removable portion is sealed to an edge of the through hole.

35. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the removable portion is sealed to an edge of the through hole.

36. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the pull-tab completely covers the through hole before the removable portion is removed by pulling action applied to the rigid plate.

37. (Previously Presented) A package as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the pull-tab completely covers the through hole before the removable portion is removed by pulling action applied to the rigid plate.

38. (New) A sealed package of pourable food product comprising: a plurality of walls; a through hole passing through one of the walls; a removable portion fixed directly to the one wall and completely covering the through hole; an upstanding frame fixed to the package at a position surrounding the removable portion, the upstanding frame defining a pour opening through which the pourable food product can flow when a part of the removable portion covering the through hole is removed; a cap fitted to the frame and closing the pour opening, the cap

being removable from the frame; a rigid plate positioned in the upstanding frame and extractable from the frame by pulling action; a pull-tab of sheet material having a sealed end at an edge of the through hole, and a free, unsealed end at an opposite end of the pull-tab and at an initial position, the pull-tab of sheet material being attached to the removable portion and the free, unsealed end being attached to the rigid plate, and the pull-tab of sheet material connecting the rigid plate to the removable portion so that pulling action applied to the rigid plate after removing the cap is first applied to the free, unsealed end of the pull-tab of sheet material to remove the free, unsealed end from the initial position, and is subsequently applied to the removable portion attached to the pull-tab of sheet material to cause removal of the part of the removable portion in an opening direction after the free, unsealed end is removed, the rigid plate being connected integrally to the frame by breakable strips of connecting material, the breakable strips being parallel to each other and to the opening direction of the pull-tab.